AGENDA ITEM:

SUMMARY

Report for:	**Strategic Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting:	**14 June 2016**
PART:	**1**
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	**Quarter 4 and End of Year 2015/16 Performance Report – Planning, Development and Regeneration**
Contact:	Cllr Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration James Doe, Assistant Director – Planning, Development and Regeneration
Purpose of report:	To report on service performance for the end of year and fourth quarter of 2015/16, and to provide an update on the Operational Risk Register.
Recommendations	That the report be noted.
Corporate objectives:	The report focuses on the service plan for the area and key performance indicators. All corporate objectives are therefore relevant.
Implications: 'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Financial</u> None arising directly from this report. <u>Value for Money</u> None arising directly from this report.
Risk Implications	Risk Assessment completed as part of the service plan.
Equalities Implications	None arising from this report.

Health And Safety Implications	None arising from this report.
Consultees:	Cllr Graham Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration. Mark Gaynor, Corporate Director for Housing and Regeneration Sara Whelan, Group Manager for Development Management and Planning Chris Taylor, Group Manager for Strategic Planning and Regeneration
Background papers:	Planning and Regeneration Service Plan 2015-16 Performance information held on the CorVu system.

Introduction

1. The report provides the end of year position for 2015/16, with a report on performance for Q4. A presentation will be given on major projects carried out by the service during 2015/16.

2. Overall, performance has been strong this past business year, with three exceptions running at amber to report for the year end. This is covered below.

Performance Indicators

3. Building Control. As reported to the Committee in the Q3 report, this year has been a challenge for the service in terms of staff turnover and a large rise in workload. Income has exceeded the budget target by over £29,000 at £573,322 (FIN15). Despite workload pressures, the turnaround time for applications received was maintained at 100% within the two month target timescale (BC01).

4. Development Management. As with Building Control, this has been a challenging year for the service with the same issues of staff turnover and increased workload. Applications received were up again (DMP02) on 2014/15 by a further 5% with 2,559 coming in 2015/16 compared to 2426 the previous year.

5. It has been a record year for planning fee income (FIN16). Fees received were 30% up on last year at £953,897; and some 29% against target budgeted income.

6. This year has seen a significant improvement in processing times for planning applications (DMP04, 05 and 06).

7. For major planning applications, the target of 60% of applications determined in 13 weeks was exceeded comfortably at 83.33%, a big improvement on the relatively poor end to 2014/15 where only 33.33% were determined within time.

8. Minor applications were on target at 65%.

9. The 'other' category of applications – the bulk of the service's workload – finished the year at 77.39%, just under the 80% target and therefore showing as amber. However, the service is on a rising trend with Q4 performance at 86.5%, and a similar result in Q3.

10. The refusal rate for planning applications remains low, with only 7.67% of applications refused, well ahead of the 12% target (DMP07). This means that 92% of applications were approved – a measure which helps to support the development process, saves the Council time and money, and is good for the Council's reputation as open for business.

11. The proportion of applications refused by the Council and then subject to an appeal to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has risen significantly to 32.5% compared to just under 17% last year, albeit within the 35% target (DMP03). This may reflect growing confidence in the development industry to challenge Local Authorities' decisions as the local economy continues to perform well. Members need to note that additional appeals will place further burdens on the resources of the service. This factor is however mitigated by proactive work carried out at the pre-application stage which helps to limit problems during the processing phase of applications, and limit the need to refuse proposals.

12. Finally, the validation of planning applications (DMP08) remains on target at 72% validated within three working days of receipt.

13. Planning Enforcement. Performance has remained high. The Council's approved Local Enforcement Plan sets out priorities for investigations into three categories. All Priority 1 cases were visited within 1 working day (PE01). Priority 2 and 3 cases came in at 92.9% and 97.9% for the target visiting times of 10 and 15 working days respectively (PE02 and PE03).

14. Land Charges. This is a competitive service, and workload and business remains very high, with just over 2500 search applications received in 2014/15 (LC03). Performance has improved strongly to finish at an average processing time of 8.16 days against the target of ten. Income was just above target at £284,422 received in search fees (FIN15).

15. Strategic Planning and Regeneration. There was positive progress on business development with a net growth of 460 businesses registered for VAT. 14 new apprenticeships were created in the Borough, against the target of 40. This is unfortunately the only indicator running at red, and a difficult one for the Council to control directly.

16. 2015/16. The format for the forthcoming reports will remain similar, but Members should note that there will be additional and new performance indicators as a result of a review to more close align the PIs with risk and corporate/service plan issues.

Operational Risk Register

17. The risk register is at appendix 2. This has been reviewed recently. Questions on the register are invited at the meeting.

Projects led by the Service

18. A presentation will be given by Officers.